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Letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the terrorist acts that occurred in London Thursday morning, 1 Jumada II A.H. 1426 (7 July A.D. 2005), taking the lives of a number of civilians, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement issued in that regard by His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema and the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Praise be to God and Prayers and Peace be upon the Last of the Prophets.

The recent succession of events, the incidents of individual and collective killing, explosions, destruction of property and the terrorizing of peace-loving people all come under the Islamic concept of "mischief in the land". This is forbidden by the religion of Islam, and any attribution of it to Islam is unjust. The religion of Islam is not responsible for such things. In this regard, it is a duty of the people of Islam to rise up and declare the truth and reveal what is false and to make it known to all humankind that Islam is a religion of righteousness and conciliation, a religion that elevates humanity and leads it from darkness to the light, a religion which God perfected and approved for human beings as the seal of all religions, saying (may He be exalted!): "Today I have perfected for you your religion, completed My favour upon you and chosen Islam for you as a religion". Our religion involves respect for commitments and prohibits their violation. God Most High has said: "And fulfil every commitment, for every commitment will be enquired into [on the Day of Reckoning]", and "O you who believe, fulfil your promises."

Islam forbids the unjust killing of human beings. The Almighty has said: "Take not life, which God has made sacred, except by way of justice". Islam prohibits mischief in the land, making it a grave offence. For God has said: "There is a type of man whose speech about life in this world may please you, and he calls God to witness regarding what is in his heart; yet he is the grimmest of adversaries. When he turns his back, his aim everywhere is to spread mischief in the land and destroy crops and cattle. But Allah does not love mischief. When it is said to that man, "Fear Allah, he is led by arrogance to (more) crime. Hell will do for him, a wretched resting-place indeed!"

Islam came to spread justice, even towards an enemy. Let not his hostility lead you to commit aggression against him and wrong him. For God Most High has said: "Let not the hatred of others to you make you deviate from right to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is closer to piety". The explosions currently being carried out in the world, including the bombings that occurred in London on Thursday morning, have targeted peaceful people, something that is not permitted or advocated by the religion of Islam. Rather, as we have stated, these are forbidden acts according to our religion. Anyone who attributes such things to Islam or alleges that the religion of Islam permits such acts is guilty of ineffable slander against the religion of God, for He has said: "Those who ascribe false things to God will never prosper". He has also said: "Say: the things that my Lord has forbidden are: shameful deeds, whether open or secret; sins and wrongful oppression; associating with God that for which He has given no authority; and saying things about God of which you have no knowledge".

Esteemed Islamic scholars of our times have — thank God — repeatedly expressed their censure of such abominable acts and have stated time and time again that those acts have nothing to do with Islam. They have affirmed that anyone who violates such principles in word or in deed sets no example to be followed, for he is proven wrong both by the law and by the consensus of the ulema. As we have said,

one's duty is piety towards God and being on one's guard against succumbing to acts forbidden by God, such as killing, causing explosions or "mischief in the land", making bold against the religion of the Almighty God or attributing such heinous acts to it, when it is in no way responsible for such things. The learned scholars must reiterate the statement and continue to explain until those who have departed from the straight path of God desist; until it becomes clear to the world that such crimes are unrelated to the religion of God the Almighty; and until Islamic scholars have fully discharged their responsibility. For God exacted a promise from men of learning to speak out clearly and not to hold back, when He said: "And remember, Allah took a covenant from the People of the Book to make it known and clear to mankind, and not to hide it".

This is what we wished to state, on behalf of God, the Prophet and his Book, the Muslim Imams and the laity and in discharge of our duty.

May the Almighty God, Who hears all and answers all, safeguard our country and other Islamic countries from evil and harm!

May God bless the Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his Companions, pray for them and keep them safe.

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Muhammad **Al al-Sheikh**
(Seal — illegible)
Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema,
Chairman of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'